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41

ORIGIN PA-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 IO-13 ADP-00 ACDA-19 SAJ-01

MBFR-03 PM-07 USIA-15 RSC-01 /099 R

DRAFTED BY PA/PG:DFBARRETT:DS

8/17/73 EXT. 22376

APPROVED BY PA/PG-DBROWN

DESIRED DISTRIBUTION

ACDA, S/AJ, D/MBFR, EUR, PM, PA, USIA

----- 115421

P R 171720Z AUG 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

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DISTO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: US, PINT, PARM, XG

SUBJECT: AMERICAN PRESS COVERAGE

1. HIGHLIGHTS. WEDNESDAY PAPERS FRONTPAGED CAMBODIA BOMB-
ING HALT. THURSDAY PAPERS CARRIED NIXON WATERGATE SPEECH;
US BALANCE OF PAYMENTS REGISTERS DRAMATIC GAIN; US JOINS
UN VOTE CONDEMNING ISRAEL FOR FORCING DOWN ARAB PLANE;
NIXON SEES PERIL TO PEACE IN CAMBODIA BOMBING HALT. FRI-
DAY PAPERS FRONTPAGE REACTION TO NIXON SPEECH; US WARNS
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SAIGON STAY OUT OF WAR; LIBYAN HIJACKS PLANE TO ISRAEL.

2. GENEVA. FRIDAY WASHPOST ARTICLE FROM STAFF REPORTS AND NEWS DISPATCHES REPORTS SWEDEN WARNED GENEVA DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE ABOUT POSSIBLE DANGERS TO PEACE FROM BINARY CHEMICAL WEAPONS WHICH CAN BE PRODUCED FROM RELATIVELY HARMLESS CHEMICALS AND WHICH BECOME TOXIC ONLY WHEN THEY MINGLE IN WARHEAD ON WAY TO TARGET.

3. SOVIET BLAST. THURSDAY WASHPOST, REUTER REPORTED AEC SAID SEISMIC SIGNALS FROM PRESUMED UNDERGROUND EXPLOSION RECORDED TUESDAY NIGHT FROM SOUTHERN PART SOVIET UNION NEAR TASHKENT. SIGNALS EQUIVALENT TO BLAST IN RANGE OF 20,000 TO 200,000 TONS TNT. THURSDAY NYTIMES AND WASHSTAR-NEWS CARRIED SIMILAR AP STORY.

4. SOVIET TECHNOLOGY. THURSDAY WASHSTAR-NEWS REPORTED PENTAGON SAYS RUSSIANS CONDUCTING INTENSIVE TESTS OF ADVANCED MULTIPLE MISSILE WARHEAD TECHNOLOGY, SPOKESMAN ADDING NEW TESTS SHOW PROGRESS IN DEVELOPMENT. OFFICIAL US ASSESSMENT REAFFIRMED THAT SOVIETS PROBABLY WILL ATTAIN MIRV CAPABILITY BY LATE NEXT YEAR OR IN 1975 WITH TECHNOLOGY SOMEWHAT SIMILAR TO OUR OWN.

5. COMMENT. SOVIET MIRV SYSTEM. WEDNESDAY WASHPOST, JOSEPH ALSOP COLUMN HEADED MIRVING SOVIET MISSILES, SAID SOVIET SUCCESSFUL TEST OF DEVICE FOR MIRVING SS-9, EXPECTED MIRVING OF HUGE SS-18 WITH AT LEAST FIVE OR SIX WARHEADS, AND OBVIOUS SOVIET INTENTION TO MIRV ALL THEIR MAIN OPERATIONAL MISSILES INDICATES SOVIETS HAVE NOT SMALLEST INTENTION OF RELAXING TENSIONS BY ENDING ARMS RACE. ALLEGED PROTECTIONS OF SALT ONE AGREEMENT CEASE TO BE WORTH ANYTHING TO THIS COUNTRY AFTER SOVIET MIRV TEST. FIRST SALT AGREEMENT REALLY GAINED SOVIETS AMPLE TIME TO GAIN HUGE LEAD OVER US, ALSOP ADDING NOTHING CAN BE DONE REGAIN HUGE FORMER US LEAD SO THOUGHTLESSLY AND FLACCIDLY SACRIFICED. ALSOP SAYS MANY THINGS CAN BE DONE TO KEEP SOVIETS FROM GAINING HUGE LEAD, ALL OF WHICH ARE BEGINNING TO BE DONE AS INEXPENSIVE NOT PARTICULARLY CONTROVERSIAL PILOT PROJECTS. WHAT MATTERS IS ENOUGH UNCLASSIFIED

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MONEY AND THRUST TO KEEP EVEN WITH SOVIETS. QUESTION SAYS ALSOP IS WHETHER US REALLY WANTS TO LIE BACK AND LET SOVIETS GAIN THIS KIND OF LEAD IN STRATEGIC POWER.

6. COMMENT. NUCLEAR TESTING. THURSDAY CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR SAID HOPES FOR 1963 TEST-BAN TREATY ONLY PARTLY FULFILLED SINCE SUPERPOWERS ALLOWED TO CONTINUE UNDERGROUND TESTING AND PROSPECT CHINA AND FRANCE JOINING

TREATY IS SLIM. COMPREHENSIVE TEST-BAN TREATY NOT REALISTIC AT THIS TIME BECAUSE NEITHER SUPERPOWER PREPARED FOREGO TESTING ALTOGETHER AS LONG AS CHINA STILL BUILDING NUCLEAR FORCES AND REFUSES SIGN EVEN LIMITED TEST BAN. MONITOR SUGGESTS FRANCE AND CHINA BE ENCOURAGED TO SHIFT TESTING UNDERGROUND. THAT WOULD OPEN WAY FOR BOTH TO SIGN PARTIAL TEST-BAN TREATY, MAKING IT EASIER TO MOVE AHEAD TOWARD GOAL OF COMPREHENSIVE TEST-BAN.

7. COMMENT. TRIDENT. ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH OF AUGUST 8 WAS DISAPPOINTED IN ACTIONS OF HOUSE AND SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE ON PENTAGON'S WEAPONS-PROCUREMENT BUDGET WHICH SHOWED CONSIDERABLE RELUCTANCE ON CAPITOL HILL TO SERIOUSLY CHALLENGE DOD REQUESTS. POST-DISPATCH FOUND

SENATE COMMITTEE'S FAILURE TO REDUCE FUNDS FOR ACCELERATED TRIDENT PROGRAM MOST DISCOURAGING; ADDING SYSTEM MAY ULTIMATELY COST 40 BILLIONS OR MORE. AS DETENTE GROWS WITH SOVIET UNION AND US CLOSES OUT ADVENTURES IN ASIA POST-DISPATCH SEES NO REASON CONTINUE LAVISHING NATION'S RESOURCES ON MILITARY HARDWARE.

7A. SUNDAY LATIMES COMMENTED UNTIL THERE IS MORE SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS IN SALT AGREEMENTS WITH SOVIETS, CONGRESS WILL HAVE TO CONTINUE TO WIELD ECONOMY AX ON MILITARY WITH DUE PRUDENCE, ALTHOUGH TIMES FEELS SENATE CAN SAFELY MAKE SOME ADDITIONAL CUTS WHEN IT TAKES UP DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS BILL, SPECIFICALLY TRIDENT PROGRAM. IF SALT TWO IS SUCCESSFUL TRIDENT EXPENDITURE CAN BE AVOIDED; IF TALKS UNSUCCESSFUL NO REASON TO PAY EXTRA COST NOW OF ACCELERATING PROGRAM. TIMES ADMITS IMPORTANT TO KEEP SOVIETS CONVINCED THAT US SEA-BASED NUCLEAR DETERRENT WOULD SURVIVE PREEMPTIVE ATTACK IN LIGHT OF FACT SOVIET UNCLASSIFIED

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NAVY NOW MOST POWERFUL IN WORLD ACCORDING JANE'S FIGHTING SHIPS.

7B. CLEVELAND PLAIN DEALER OF AUGUST 8 SAID RESTORATION OF FUNDS BY SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE FOR SPEEDUP OF TRIDENT PROJECT WAS GOOD MOVE, CONSIDERING RECENT PUBLICATION OF HIGHLY AUTHORITATIVE ASSESSMENT OF GROWTH OF SOVIET NAVAL POWER BY CAPT JOHN MOORE. MOVEMENT TO SPEED UP TRIDENT, SAYS PLAIN DEALER, SHOULD BE MORE IMPORTANT TO US THAN SENATE HAS REALIZED AND COULD VASTLY STRENGTHEN US NUCLEAR DETERRENT FORCE. ROGERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE163671
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DFBARRETT:DS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730830/aaaaawej.tel
Line Count: 165
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN PA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kellerpr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24-Aug-2001 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <06-Sep-2001 by kellerpr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMERICAN PRESS COVERAGE
TAGS: PINT, PARM, US, XG
To: GENEVA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005